

I CLAIM:

1. (Original) A combination, comprising:

a package with a top, a bottom, and at least one side wall which define an interior space, the side wall having a tear line extending across the side wall substantially midway between the top and the bottom and parallel to the top and bottom; and

a plurality of tobacco articles arranged in the interior of the package so as to extend between the top to the bottom, each tobacco article having a filter with two ends and a tobacco element extending from each end of the filter, the tobacco elements having equal lengths so that the filter is substantially midway between the top and the bottom of the package, each filter having a tear line midway along a length of the filter, which tear line corresponds to the tear line in the side wall of the package, the tear lines being provided in the package side wall and the smoking elements so that a separation force applied to the tear line of the package also serves to separate the filters.

2. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein the package has four side walls and the tear line extends along three of the side walls.

3. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 2, wherein the side wall without the tear line has a fold line extending between ends of the tear line at the side edges of the side wall with the fold line.

4. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 2, wherein the tear line extends along all four side walls so that the package is separatable into two parts.

5. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein the tear line is formed by perforations in the wrapper.

6. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein the tear line is scored into the package.

7. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein the package is made of paper.

8. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein the tear lines in the filters are formed by indentations.

9. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein the tear lines in the filters are formed by perforations.

10. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein the tear line in the package is formed by indentations.

11. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein twenty smoking articles are arranged in the package.

12. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein the smoking articles are cigarettes.

13. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 1, wherein the smoking articles are cigars.

14. (Original) A combination, comprising:

a package with a top, a bottom and at least one side wall which define an interior space, the side wall having a tear line extending across the side wall substantially midway between the top and the bottom and parallel to the top and the bottom; and

a plurality of tobacco articles arranged in the interior of the package, each tobacco article having a filter and a tobacco element, the tobacco articles being arranged in pairs stacked filter to filter in the package so that each pair of tobacco articles extends from the top to the bottom of the package and the contact surfaces of the abutting tobacco article filters are substantially in a region of the tear line in the side wall of the package.

15. (Original) The combination as defined in claim 14, wherein 40 smoking articles are arranged in the package.